



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

August 15, 2002

S. 1069

National Trails System Willing Seller Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 31, 2002*

S. 1069 would amend the National Trails System Act to allow the federal government to purchase land from willing sellers for three national trails. Under current law, the National Park Service (NPS) generally is not authorized to spend federal funds to acquire land for these trails that is outside of existing federal areas such as national parks.

The costs of implementing S. 1069 are uncertain because the NPS has not completed land protection plans for the three trails cited in the bill. CBO expects that relatively little land along the nearly 5,000 miles composing the three trails would be acquired because most land can probably be protected in other ways, as it is for other trails in the system. Nevertheless, acquisition costs for at least one trail—the 3,200-mile North Country National Scenic Trail—could exceed \$100 million, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. For the two shorter trails, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, CBO expects that costs would be much lower. In any case, all acquisition funding would be subject to the appropriation of the necessary amounts and would probably be spent over a period of several years. This estimate is based on information provided by the National Park Service.

S. 1069 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.